

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, March 29,
1791, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Charlottesville March 29. 1791.

Dear Sir.

When I left this for Phila. last Novr., from a desire to place my brother without the reach of bad example in a quiet good family & where he might pursue his studies to the best advantage, I engag'd lodgings for him with old Mr. Jas. Kerr. The genl. opinion of my acquaintance here was in favor of this preference for his house & society, wh. was the more confirmed on my part from a knowledge that I had render'd him services & had a claim to his attention. You will readily conceive my astonishment when you hear that on my way up yesterday I was informed he was married to Mr. Kerr's daughter. That by his management the young man had been artfully kept from the society of any of my friends & contrary to his own wishes, who urg'd the impropriety of it, had been precipitated into it before my return; although it was well known I shod certainly be in by this time. As I have had the care of this youth since I have been able to take care of myself, have expended much money in the previous part of his education, & hoped whatever might be the indiscretions of his early life to make him as a more mature age useful to himself & to others, & particular

ly if any accident shod. bereave my family of my support to make him a parent to them as I have been to him; believe me this has been the most heartfelt & afflicting stroke I

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have ever felt. If his education had been complete & himself establish'd in life, both to take care of a family, to me it woud. have been a matter of indifference with whom he connected himself. But being yet a minor & quite unfinishd'd in these respects the injury appears to be almost without remedy. It is likewise surprising, considering the circumstance of his minority, as that his guardianship was intrusted to me, who was daily expected, that he license was granted or that the clergyman Mr. Maury married him-however such have been the facts.

I heard yesterday evening on my arrival that Mr. and Mrs. Randolph were well. I set out in the morning for the district court at Staunton. Our journey in was slow & tedious beyond our expectation. Mr. M.& child are at Fredbg. The latter by her indisposition detain'd us almost a week at Bal. I am dear Sir very affectionately yr. friend & servantJas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).